



City of Middletown  
Animal Control Department  
222 Main Street  
Middletown, CT 06457  
Phone: (860) 344-3298

**Statement in Support of SB 994 banning leg hold traps**

March 6, 2009

Members of the Environment Committee,

I am the Animal Control Officer in Middletown, CT. I would like to thank you for hearing testimony regarding the banning of these cruel traps. I apologize for being unable to testify in person, however, I would like to share my experiences with these traps with you.

Last summer I had two incidents involving domestic cats that were caught in leg hold traps. In the first incident, an owner reported that her cat had been missing for several days. As she was out searching for her cat, she began to hear a cat howling off in the distance. She said the cat sounded like it was in great pain. She followed the howling deep into the woods behind her home and found her cat stuck in a leg hold trap. The cat suffered a broken leg. She was horrified that someone had set a trap like this causing her cat to suffer through such a frightening ordeal. If she had not heard the cat howling, it most likely would have died a terrible slow and painful death.

In the second incident a concerned citizen found a cat in her backyard dragging a trap on its leg. She found the cat's owner, a neighbor, and the cat was taken to the veterinarian for care. The cat's leg was not broken; however, she did suffer injury from being caught in the trap. The owner was extremely upset that someone would set a trap like this in a residential neighborhood filled with children and pets. The trap was not labeled and we were never able to determine where it came from.

At this very moment, I am aware of both a skunk and a coyote that have leg hold traps stuck on them. We are attempting to trap the skunk. The coyote is much more difficult to try to help as he is still very mobile. I am certain that these animals have suffered injury from these traps and are in constant pain while trying to survive. Unfortunately, adult animals of these species cannot be rehabilitated and they will most likely need to be euthanized. These animals will need to lose their lives because irresponsible people set inhumane traps that cause unnecessary suffering.

Please, please pass SB 994 to save further animals from this senseless cruelty.

Thank you,

Gail Petras - Animal Control Officer